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G. A. O'Connell

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Bt. from Morrell Executors.

March, 1925.



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INFORMATIONS

AND

OTHER PAPERS

Relating to the

TREASONABLE VERSES

Found at

O X F O R D,

July 17. 1754.

The SECOND EDITION.

O X F O R D

Printed; and Sold by DANIEL PRINCE. And
by J. and J. RIVINGTON in *St. Paul's*
Church-Yard, LONDON. 1755.

[Price *Six-Pence.*]

A circular library stamp from the Bodleian Library in Oxford. The text "BODLEIAN LIBRARY" is curved along the top inner edge, and "OXFORD" is curved along the bottom inner edge. In the center, the date "1 APR 1925" is stamped in a bold, sans-serif font.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Magistrates, before whom the the following Informations were taken, have hitherto deferred laying them before the Publick, as Copies were from Time to Time transmitted to their proper Superiors, and as a hasty Publication might have prevented the Discovery of that Truth, which alone was the End of their Enquiry. But as many Misrepresentations have been made of the Matters which appeared upon this Examination, the Magistrates now think it a Duty, which they owe to their respective Communities, to silence effectually all false Reports, by the Publi-

cation of the Informations themselves; which contain every Fact that has hitherto come to their Knowledge, relating to the Treasonable Paper presented by the Grand Jury of this County at the last Assises.

To these are prefixed a Copy of the Grand-Jury's Presentment, and a few other Papers, explanatory of the Time and Manner, in which the Finding of this Treasonable Libel was first communicated to the Publick.

OXFORD, 4 Jan. 1755.

Printed by J. DODD, at the Sign of the Crown, in St. Dunstons Church-yard, near St. Dunstons Church, in Oxford.

Printed by J. DODD, at the Sign of the Crown, in St. Dunstons Church-yard, near St. Dunstons Church, in Oxford.

INFORMATIONS

A N D

OTHER PAPERS, &c.

IN the *London* and other Evening Posts of *Tuesday, July 23. 1754.* appeared the following Advertisement.

WHEREAS there was found near Carfax in Oxford, on Saturday July 13th, a treasonable Copy of Verses, reflecting, in a most scandalous Manner, on His Majesty's Person and Government, to the high Dishonour of an University where Loyalty ought to be particularly cultivated: This is to give Notice, That a certain Number of Loyal Subjects to His Majesty King GEORGE, and Members of the said University, to free themselves from any Share in the general Reflections that must be thrown out on this Occasion, and to express a just Indignation at the Insult that is offered thereby to the best of Kings and Governments, do hereby promise a Reward of Fifty Pounds to any one, who will discover the Person or Persons, who wrote or dispersed the said Verses: The Money to be paid on Conviction, by Mr. Cornelius Norton, Attorney at Law, in the High-Street, Oxford.

THE

THE following Affidavit was transmitted to the Vice-Chancellor, a few Days after it was sworn.

LONDON, to wit.

RICHARD NUTT, Printer in the Old Bailey, maketh Oath, That on Monday the twenty second day of July last past He this Depo-
 nent received from the Reverend Mr. Blaco, Canon of Windsor, the following Advertisement (so wit.) "Whereas there was found near Carfax in
 "Oxford, on Saturday July 13th, a treasonable
 "Copy of Verses, reflecting in a most scandalous
 "Manner on His Majesty's Person and Govern-
 "ment, to the high Dishonour of an University
 "where Loyalty ought to be particularly cultiva-
 "ted: This is to give Notice, That a certain
 "Number of Loyal Subjects to His Majesty King
 "GEORGE, and Members of the said University,
 "to free themselves from any Share in the general
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 "sion, and to express a just Indignation at the In-
 "sult that is offered thereby to the best of Kings
 "and Governments, do hereby promise a Reward
 "of fifty Pounds to any One, who will discover the
 "Person or Persons who wrote or dispersed the
 "said Verses: The Money to be paid on Conviction
 "by Mr. Cornelius Norton, Attorney at Law, in
 "the High-Street, Oxford." Which Advertisement
 was inserted in the London Evening Post of
 July the 23d 1754, and for which Advertisement
 the

the said Reverend Mr. Blaco paid to him this Deponent the Sum of five Shillings.

RICHARD NUTT.

Sworn the 26th Day of *August*,
in the Year 1754, before me
at my Mansion House,
THOMAS RAWLINSON, Mayor.

ON *Wednesday*, July the 24th, the Assises began at *Oxford*, and ended on *Friday* the 26th, on the latter of which Days a Presentment was made by the Grand-Jury, consisting of the following Gentlemen;

Right Honourable Lord Viscount Parker, <i>Foreman</i> .	
Hon. Charles Sloane Cadogan, Esq;	Robert Nedham, Esq;
Sir John Rcade, Bart.	John Knabbs, Esq;
Sir Jonathan Cope, Bart.	George Schutz, Esq;
Sir Edward Turner, Bart.	Paul Elers, Esq;
Sir William Burnaby, Knt.	John Deacle, Esq;
Anthony Keck, Esq;	Stuckley Baynton, Esq;
Thomas Horde, Esq;	Charles Piers, Esq;
Anthony Hodges, Esq;	George Cowncer, Gent.
William Lenthall, Esq;	Richard Blackall, Gent.

A Copy of which Presentment was the next Morning printed in the *Oxford Journal*, in the following Words;

Oxfordshire. { At the ASSIZES held at the City
of *Oxford*, in and for the
County of *Oxford*, on *Wednesday* the Twenty-fourth Day
of July, 1754.

WE the Grand Jury for the County of *Oxford*,
do present, That a false, malicious, infamous,
and treasonable Libel bereunto annexed, abusing His
sacred

sacred Majesty, and exhorting all People to take up Arms against Him in favour of a Popish Pretender, was found on Wednesday the 17th of this Instant July near the Market Place in the Parish of St. Martin's in the City of Oxford, and was wrote with a wicked and diabolical Intention of alienating the Affections of His Majesty's Subjects, and again involving these Kingdoms in a most impious and unnatural Rebellion; We think it therefore our bounden Duty in the most publick Manner to express our Detestation and Abhorrence of an Attempt so atrocious, to destroy the Peace and Happiness of our Country, and the Life of our Sovereign, which we are bound in Interest as well as Gratitude to Support to the utmost of our Power: — There is not any publick Blessing which we do not enjoy under His Majesty's most auspicious Government. — Our Civil and Religious Rights are protected, Justice is administered with the greatest Impartiality, and the Nation is enriched by a most flourishing and extensive Trade; And we humbly present that it is our Opinion, that the highest Punishment that the Laws will admit should be inflicted on those who thus impiously attempt to deprive us of Blessings and Advantages so invaluable; and that the most effectual Methods should be taken to discover the Persons concerned therein. We must add likewise, that it is the highest Aggravation of this Crime, to have a Libel of a Nature so false and scandalous published in a famous University, where a great Part of the Youth of England have their Education; and where, if it should unhappily make an Impression, it would produce the most fatal Consequences to us and our Posterity.

IN the *London Gazette* of *Saturday, July* the 27th, was inserted an Advertisement from one of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, reciting that on the 13th Instant (which Date in the subsequent Gazettes was corrected for the 17th Instant) a Written Paper of Verses containing the most infamous and audacious Expressions of Treason, Sedition and Rebellion, was dropt in the Market Place at *Oxford*; requiring in His Majesty's Name all Justices of the Peace and Civil Magistrates to make diligent Search after the Authors and Publishers of the said treasonable Paper; and promising a Reward of Two Hundred Pounds upon Discovery and Conviction of the Offenders.

THE Chief Magistrates of the University and City, who had no other Intelligence of this Affair from the Beginning than what arose from the public News Papers, upon Sight of this Notice in the *Gazette*, immediately undertook an Enquiry in Pursuance of His Majesty's general Directions, the Result of which Enquiry is contained in the following Informations.

NUMBER I.

The voluntary Information of Mary the Wife of Robert Carnall, of the City of Oxford, Shopkeeper, taken before us George Huddesford, D.D. Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford, and Daniel Shilfox, Esq; Mayor of the City of Oxford, this 29th day of July, 1754.

THIS Informant upon her Oath saith, That on *Wednesday* in the Sessions Week, being the 17th of this Instant *July*, and Market Day, this Informant sometime in the Forenoon of the said Day, coming out of the Door of her House, situate at the Corner of *Carfax*, being the public Market Place of the City of *Oxford*, saw lying under her Window a small Parcel of Linnen Rags, and together with them a Piece of thick Paper, which seemed to have been the Inside of the Cover of a Book, on which this Informant saw some Writing which she apprehended to be Verses; and upon her taking up the same, one Mrs. *West*, who sells Cheese opposite this Informant's Window, said to this Informant, They are *Riab's*, meaning that they belonged to one *Maria Duke*, who uses to go of Errands for the said Mrs. *West*, and at other Times, as this Informant believes, cries Fruit about the Streets, and sometimes buys or gathers Rags. And this Informant further saith, That upon looking on the said Paper, she found

that it contained a Copy of Verses, which she apprehended to be of a treasonable Nature, and to carry base Reflections on his Majesty and the Government; and that soon after she had read the said Verses, the said *Maria Duke* came to her this Informant, and demanded the said Paper, as being her the said *Maria's* Property; Whereupon this Informant told the said *Maria*, that the said Verses were against His Majesty; to which the said *Maria* answered, Then damn 'em; but the said *Maria* refused to tell this Informant where she had the same. And this Informant further saith, That on the same Day she found the said Verses, she shewed them to her Neighbour Mr. *Austin*, one of the Justices of the Peace for the City of *Oxford*; and on the same, and other Days following, she shewed the same to several others of her Acquaintance, but never gave any Copy or Copies thereof. And this Informant further saith, That during the Time of the Assises for the County of *Oxford*, and (to the best of this Informant's Belief, upon *Thursday* the 25th Instant) Mr. *Cornelius Norton*, an Attorney at Law, of *Oxford*, (who to the best of this Informant's Knowledge had never seen the said Verses before) came to this Informant and desired to borrow the said Verses, which this Informant accordingly lent him. And this Informant was the next Morning brought before the Grand Jury, and examined with Regard to the finding of the said Paper of Verses, and hath not seen the said Paper since, but believes it was presented by the Grand Jury at
the

the said Affises to the Court ; and this Informant saith, That she doth not know, nor hath ever heard, that any treasonable or other Libel was found at *Carfax* on the thirteenth Instant, or at any other time, save only on the seventeenth Instant above mentioned.

MARY CARNALL.

*Sworn at Oxford the 29th Day of
July, 1754. before us*

GEORGE HUDDSFORD, Vice-Chan.

DANIEL SHILFOX, Mayor.

N U M B E R II.

The voluntary Information of Maria Duke, Spinster, taken before us George Huddsford, D. D. Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford, and Daniel Shilfox, Esq; Mayor of the City of Oxford, this 29th Day of July, 1754.

THIS Informant upon her Oath saith, That her Livelyhood and Employment consist in selling Fruit, buying Rags, and going of Errands for Mrs. *West* of *Northmore* in the County of *Oxford*, who brings Cheeie twice a Week to *Oxford Market*: That on last *Wednesday* Sen-
night

night in the Morning, being the 17th of this Instant *July*, she bought a Parcel of Rags of one *Mary Thurstan*, the Daughter of Mr. *Thurstan* a Barber in the *Higb-Street, Oxford*, of the Value of Two Pence or thereabouts, and went up to the Market Place at *Carfax* with the said Rags in her Apron sometime before Noon in the same Day; that there the said Mrs. *West* desired her to carry out a Parcel of Cheese, and leave her Rags behind her, which she accordingly did upon some Straw which came out of Mrs. *West's* Hampers under the Window of Mr. *Carnall's* Shop, who lives at the Corner of *Carfax* afore-said. And this Informant saith, that at the Time she bought the said Rags she did not see or know of any Paper or Papers being among them, neither did she see or know of any Paper being there at the Time she left the said Rags under Mr. *Carnall's* Window. And this Informant saith, That she left the said Rags in the said Place (which was in the public Market Place during the Time of the County Sessions) for the Space of an Hour or more, and that on her Return the said Mrs. *West* told this Informant that Mrs. *Carnall* had picked up a Piece of Paper from among the Rags, and had carried it over to Mr. *Carter's* a Shopkeeper over the Way; Whereupon this Informant went to the said Mr. *Carter's*, and there found the said Mrs. *Carnall* and Mr. *Austin* the Mercer reading a Paper in Mr. *Carter's* Shop; and this Informant asked Mrs. *Carnall* whether she had taken any Thing out of her this Informant's Rags, and (if she had)

had) to let this Informant see it, but Mrs. *Carnall* refused so to do, unless this Informant would tell her where she had bought her Rags, which this Informant denied to do, apprehending that such Enquiry was no Business of Mrs. *Carnall*'s. And this Informant saith, That afterwards, upon Mrs. *Carnall*'s telling her the said Paper, which she had picked up, was against His Majesty, she this Informant expressed her Sorrow for and Dislike of the same, but did not tell Mrs. *Carnall* where she had the said Rags, apprehending that she had no Authority to ask the Question. And this Informant upon her Oath saith, that she is entirely ignorant of the Contents of such Paper as was so said to be found among her said Rags, nor knows any Thing of the Manner of its coming there, or whether that or any other Paper was there at all, and that she knows Nothing of this or any other treasonable or other Libel being dropt or found at *Oxford*, save only as this Informant hath in this her Information above specified and declared. And Lastly, this Informant saith, that Mr. *Norton*, an Attorney of this City, about the Beginning of last Week, enquired of this Informant where she had the said Rags, which Question she this Informant did not chuse to answer, as she apprehended Mr. *Norton* was no Magistrate. And she saith, that she hath not been examined touching the Matters aforesaid, or any of them, before the Grand Jury of this County, or any Justice of Peace, or other Magistrate, till the Time of the present Examination, altho' this Infor-

Informant hath continued in *Oxford* in her usual Employment from the said 17th Instant to the present Time.

The Mark of
M
MARIA DUKE.

*Sworn at Oxford the 29th Day of
July, 1754. before us*

GEORGE HUDDESFORD, Vice-Chan.
DANIEL SHILFOX, Mayor.

N U M B E R I I I .

*The voluntary Information of Mary Thurston,
otherwise Mary Fickus, Spinster, taken be-
fore us George Huddesford, D.D. Vice-
Chancellor of the University of Oxford, and
Daniel Shilfox, Esq; Mayor of the City of
Oxford, this Third Day of August, 1754.*

THIS Informant upon her Oath saith, That she is the Daughter of *William Fickus*, late of the City of *Oxford*; Barber, deceased, but that soon after the Death of her Father, when this Informant was about three Years of Age, her Mother intermarried with *Richard Thurston*, of the said City of *Oxford*, Barber, with whom she

she has lived ever since for the Space of about thirty years, and has thereupon been usually called and known by the Name of *Mary Thurston*. And this Informant saith, That she hath for a long Time past, and doth still earn her Living by Plain Work with her Needle, and hath constantly from Time to Time made some little Advantage by selling the Rags which arose from her Way of Business, and particularly on the Seventeenth Day of *July* last past, between the Hours of Ten and Eleven in the Morning (to the best of this Informant's Memory and Belief) she this Informant sold to one *Maria Duke* a small Parcel of Rags in the Whole consisting of one Pound Weight or thereabouts, three Quarters of which were Linnen Rags, produced and arising from her Way of Business as aforesaid, and the other Quarter of a Pound consisted of Woollen Rags, being the Remnants of old Stockings and the Shreds of a Flannel Petticoat which this Informant had lately mended. And this Informant saith, That about three or four Days before the said Seventeenth Day of *July* she sorted the said Rags with her own hands, in order to pick out any Pieces that might be useful in her Business, and also to remove any Paper or other Rubbish which the Buyers of Rags do always refuse to purchase in the Lump with the Rags themselves; and having so sorted them, she this Informant tied the Linnen Rags up in a Pocket Handkerchief, being all together (to the best of this Informant's Belief) about the Size of the Crown of a Man's Hat, and put

the Woollen Rags in the Corner of her this Informant's Chamber, together with the said Handkerchief of Linnen Rags, and kept them both together in her said Chamber till the Time of her selling them; and this Informant saith, That she always keeps the Key of the said Chamber herself, and that she is positive Nobody but herself came into her said Chamber between the Time of her so sorting the said Rags and the Time of her selling them; and this Informant saith, That there was no Paper or Papers, or any Writing whatsoever, among the said Rags either Linnen or Woollen aforesaid, either at the Time of her sorting or selling the said Rags to the said *Maria Duke*, who gave this Informant the Sum of Two Pence for the same; and this Informant further positively saith, that she is an utter Stranger to, and never saw any treasonable or seditious Libel or other Paper whatsoever, said to be found among *Maria Duke's* Rags at *Carfax* on the said Seventeenth Day of *July*, nor ever heard of the same till she was told by her Neighbours that there was an Account in the *London News Papers* that a Paper of that sort was found at *Carfax*; neither doth she this Informant know any Thing at all of that or any other treasonable or seditious Paper whatsoever. And Lastly, this Informant saith, That she never gave *Maria Duke* any Orders not to mention her Name upon this Occasion, nor ever had any Conversation with her upon this Account till last *Tuesday* Night, the 30th of *July*, when she this Informant told the said *Maria Duke*.

Duke that she was very ready and willing to own that she did really and truly sell her the said Rags at the Time and in the manner before mentioned, she this Informant being thoroughly conscious of her own Innocence with Regard to every Part of her Behaviour upon this Occasion.

MARY THURSTON.

Sworn at Oxford the 3d Day of

August, 1754. before us

GEORGE HUDDSEORD, Vice-Chan.

DANIEL SHILFOX, Mayor.

NUMBER IV.

The voluntary Information of Mary West, Widow, taken before us George Huddesford, D.D. Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford, and Daniel Shilfox, Esq; Mayor of the City of Oxford, this third Day of August, 1754.

THIS Informant upon her Oath saith, That she occupies a Farm at *Northmore* in the County of *Oxford*, and brings Cheeses twice a Week in the Summer to *Oxford* Market, and usually sells them there under the Window of

one *Robert Carnall* a Shopkeeper at *Carfax*, being the Market Place of the said City of *Oxford*; and this Informant saith, That on *Wednesday* in the last Sessions Week (being a fortnight ago: last *Wednesday*) she was sitting on her Hampers close under the said Mr. *Carnall's* Window, and that in the Forenoon of the said Day one *Maria Duke*, who goes of Errands for this Informant, having been before sent out with some Cheese, returned to *Carfax* aforesaid with a Parcel of Rags in her Apron, which she told this Informant she was going to carry to her the said *Maria Duke's* Home; but this Informant wanting to send out a Parcel of Cheese immediately, she the said *Maria Duke* threw down her Rags under the said Mr. *Carnall's* Window, being a dry Place with a Kind of Shed or Penthouse over it, and the Weather being then rainy. And this Informant saith, that the said Rags were thrown down a little behind this Informant, on her Left Hand, in the Corner formed by the Hamper upon which she sate, and the Front of Mr. *Carnall's* House; with her Back close to which House she this Informant sate. And this Informant saith, that on the said *Maria's* throwing down the said Rags, she this Informant cast her Eye upon the same; whereupon the said *Maria* told this Informant, that they were very clean; or words to that Effect; and this Informant saith, that, at the Time of her so looking upon the said Rags, she saw no Paper lying thereon or thereabouts; and this Informant saith, that the said *Maria Duke* staid above an Hour

on

on the Errand whereupon she was sent by this Informant; and that during such her Absence Mrs. *Mary Carnall*, the Wife of Mr. *Carnall* aforesaid, came out of her Shop and entered into discourse with this Informant about the Weather, her Trade, and other indifferent Things; and during such Discourse, she the said Mrs. *Carnall* stooped down by the Side of this Informant towards the Rags aforesaid, and upon her rising again she had a Paper in her Hand, which she wiped against her Apron or Petticoat, as if the same had been dirty, and thereupon ask'd this Informant whose Rags these were; to which this Informant answer'd, They are *Riab's*, meaning the said *Maria Duke's*; and then ask'd the said Mrs. *Carnall* what she had got there, to which Mrs. *Carnall* answer'd laughingly, a Bank Bill; and this Informant saith, that the said Paper, which she saw in the said Mrs. *Carnall's* Hand, was a longish Piece of thick Paper, somewhat broader than her Hand, and white on one Side, and brownish on the other, like Button Paper. And this Informant saith, that, from the Time of the said *Maria Duke's* so leaving the Rags in the Place aforesaid till the Time of the said Mrs. *Carnall's* picking up the said Paper, no Person whatever meddled with the said Rags, or came near them, save only a very little Child in Coats, unknown to this Informant, who sometime in that Morning was playing near the said Rags, but whether before or after Mrs. *Carnall* had pick'd up the said Paper this Informant cannot positively remember, but to the best

best of this Informant's Belief it was afterwards; and this Informant saith, that when Mrs. *Carnall* had so pick'd up the said Paper she carried the same into her own Shop, whither this Informant followed her; and then the said Mrs. *Carnall* told this Informant it was Treason, but this Informant never read the same. And this Informant further saith, that when the said *Maria Duke* return'd from carrying out this Informant's Cheeses, she this Informant told her that Mrs. *Carnall* had pick'd up a Paper from her Rags, but what the Paper was this Informant did not know; whereupon the said *Maria Duke* went to the said Mrs. *Carnall* to enquire after the same. And as to what pass'd afterwards between them the said *Duke*, and *Carnall*, this Informant is intirely Ignorant. And lastly this Informant saith, that she is an utter Stranger to the Contents of the said Paper, neither did she know any thing of the same's being in the Place aforesaid, till the same was produced by Mrs. *Carnall*.

The Mark of
+
MARY WEST.

*Sworn at Oxford the 3d Day of
August, 1754. before us*

GEORGE HUDDSFORD, Vice-Chan.

DANIEL SHILFOX, Mayor.

NUMBER V.

The voluntary Information of Lawrence Horner, of Oxford, Peruke-maker, taken the 19th Day of August, 1754, before us George Huddesford, D. D. Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford, and Daniel Shilfox, Esq; Mayor of the City of Oxford.

THIS Informant upon his Oath saith, That upon *Wednesday* in the Week preceding the Assises at *Oxford*, being the 17th Day of *July* last, he this Informant went to buy some Cream Cheese of one Mrs. *West*, who sells the same near *Carfax* in *Oxford*; and while this Informant was buying some Cheese, one Mrs. *Carnall* called to this Informant, and told him she had found a Copy of Verses, and that she would shew them to him; upon which this Informant went to the said Mrs. *Carnall*'s, and she gave him the said Copy of Verses, which this Informant read, and says they were wrote in a very indifferent Hand, and he believes they were wrote by a Girl or Woman; and this Informant further says, he believes it was between the Hours of Eight and Ten in the Morning, when Mrs. *Carnall* shewed him the said Verses, and is sure 'twas before Ten of the Clock; and that while he was reading the said Verses, a Girl who is called by the Name of *Riab* came into the said Shop, and desired Mrs. *Carnall* to let her have the said Paper, which Mrs. *Carnall* refused,

fused, and offered to give her a Mug of Drink if she would tell her how she came by it ; but whether the said *Riab* made any Answer to the above Question this Informant cannot say, neither doth he know any Thing further about the said Paper, otherwise than that the Writing on the said Paper appeared to have been wrote a good while, the said Paper on which it was wrote being old and pasted on another Peice of old brown Paper in Order to preserve it, which appeared to this Informant to have been rolled up; and that the said Mrs. *Carnall* told this Informant she found it on some Rags near her Door, which Rags lay near the said Mrs. *Carnall's* Door on the Right Hand side of the said Door, and just behind the Hamper of the said Mrs. *West*.

LAW. HORNER.

*Sworn at Oxford the 19th Day of
August, 1754. before us*

GEORGE HUDDSFORD, Vice-Chan.
DANIEL SHILFOX, Mayor,

NUMBER VI.

The voluntary Information of Elizabeth the Wife of Edward Browne, of the City of Oxford, Tinman, taken on Oath before us George Huddesford, D.D. Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford, and Daniel Shilfox, Esq; Mayor of the City of Oxford, the Seventeenth Day of August, 1754.

THE Informant on her Oath saith, That upon some *Wednesday* before the last Assizes for the County of *Oxford*, to the best of this Informant's Remembrance, one Mrs. *Carnall*, who lives next Door to this Informant, came to this Informant's House, and told her that she had found a Paper, and thereupon began to read the said Paper to this Informant, which contained some Verses which this Informant did not understand, but has since heard that the said Verses were of a treasonable Nature; and the said Mrs. *Carnall* took the said Verses away with her, after she had so read them to this Informant; and afterwards the said Mrs. *Carnall* lent the same Paper of Verses to this Informant for her perusal; and this Informant, after having perused the said Paper of Verses, laid them by on a Shelf in this Informant's Shop, where they continued for several Hours, if not for a whole Night, and till the said Mrs. *Carnall* sent her Maid Servant to fetch them away; and this Informant delivered them to the said Servant

vant accordingly; and this Informant can say nothing further touching the said Paper of Ver-fes.

The Mark of
EX
ELIZABETH BROWNE.

*Sworn at Oxford the Day and Year
first above written, before us*
GEORGE HUDDESFORD, Vice-Chan.
DANIEL SHILFOX, Mayor.

NUMBER VII.

*The voluntary Information of Richard Bew, of
the City of Oxford, Mercer, taken before us
George Huddesford, D.D. Vice-Chancellor
of the University of Oxford, and Daniel
Shilfox, Esq; Mayor of the City of Oxford,
the 17th Day of August, 1754.*

THIS Informant upon his Oath saith, That upon *Thursday* the 18th Day of *July* last, being the *Thursday* next before the Assises as this Informant apprehends and believes, he this Informant was at the Shop of one *Robert Carnall* near *Carfax* in *Oxford*, and that the said *Robert Carnall* told this Informant he or his
Wife

Wife had picked up a very extraordinary Paper ; upon which this Informant desired to see it, but Mr. *Carnall* told this Informant, one Mrs. *Browne*, a near Neighbour of his, had it, and immediately sent his Servant-Maid for it, who accordingly went and brought Word back, that Mrs. *Brown* was asleep ; and this Informant saith, That in the Afternoon of the same Day he went again to the said Mr. *Carnall*'s for the said Paper, and that he took a Copy of the same, which he kept by him till the *Sunday* or *Monday* following ; but hearing the said Paper was likely to make a Noise, he destroyed the said Copy ; and this Informant saith, That the said Original Paper appeared to him to have been wrote by a Woman, and that the Paper on which it was wrote appeared to be almost wore out, and believes it was pasted on a Brownish Peice of Paper in Order to preserve it ; and that by its Appearance it had been wrote a long Time.

RICHARD BEW.

Sworn at Oxford, the 17th Day of

August, 1754. before us

GEORGE HUDDSFORD, Vice-Chan.

DANIEL SHILFOX, Mayor.

NUMBER VIII.

The voluntary Information of William Carter, of the City of Oxford, Milliner, taken before us George Huddesford, D.D. Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford, and Daniel Shilfox, Esq; Mayor of the City of Oxford, this 17th Day of August, 1754.

THIS Informant upon his Oath saith, That upon the *Wednesday* on which the last general Quarter Sessions of the Peace for the County of *Oxford* was held at *Oxford* aforesaid, it being the seventeenth Day of *July* last, one Mrs. *Carnall*, who lives upon *Carfax* in *Oxford*, in this Deponent's Neighbourhood, came to this Informant's Shop with a Paper in her Hand, and said to this Informant and one Mr. *Austin*, who was then also present, Look here, see what the Blues have done! or Words to that Effect; and immediately thereupon the said Mrs. *Carnall* began to read the said Paper aloud, which contained an Infamous and Treasonable Copy of Verses; and after having read the same, the said Mrs. *Carnall* delivered the said Paper to the said Mr. *Austin* and to this Informant for their Reading, who read the same accordingly, and delivered the same to the said Mrs. *Carnall*; and this Informant further saith, that upon the *Saturday* following, being the twentieth Day of *July* last, he this Informant was standing in the Market Place of *Oxford* at the Stall of one *John Barker*

*Barker of Bicester in the County of Oxford, Mil-
liner and Hoſier, when the ſaid Mrs. Carnall
read the ſame Paper of Verſes or Part of them
to the ſaid John Barker and one John Sare then
preſent; and the ſaid Mrs. Carnall afterwards, as
this Informant believes, delivered the ſame Co-
py of Verſes to the ſaid John Barker for his per-
uſal; and this Informant ſaith, that from the
Obſervation he made on the ſaid Paper, while
he had it in his hand, it appeared to him to
have been long written; and almoſt worn out;
that it ſeemed to have a blueiſh thick Paper paſt-
ed to the Back of it, for its Preſervation; and
from the Spelling and Writing, which ſeemed
to this Informant to be a Sort of an *Italian*
Hand, this Informant judges that the ſame was
wrote by a Woman, which is all this Informant
knows or can depoſe concerning the ſaid Paper
of Verſes.*

WILLIAM CARTER.

*Sworn at Oxford the 17th Day of
Auguſt, 1754. before us*

GEORGE HUDDSFORD, Vice-Chan.

DANIEL SHILFOX Mayor.

NUMBER IX.

The voluntary Information of John Barker, of Bicester in the County of Oxford, Milliner and Hosier, taken before us George Huddesford, D.D. Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford, and Daniel Shilfox, Esq; Mayor of the City of Oxford, this 17th Day of August, 1754.

THIS Informant upon his Oath saith, That upon *Saturday* the 20th Day of *July* last this Informant came to *Oxford* Market, where he keeps a Stall and sells Goods in his Way of Business, and has so done for near 20 Years past, and that upon the above Day one Mrs. *Carnall* came to this Informant; and after talking some little Time of indifferent Matters, she, Mrs. *Carnall*, said she had something to shew this Informant; upon which she shewed this Informant a small Piece of Paper rolled up, that there were several Verses wrote on the said Paper, which this Informant read, and apprehends they reflected highly on the present Government, and contained treasonable Expressions according to the best of his Judgment; and this Informant further saith, that the said Mrs. *Carnall* lives near *Carfax* in *Oxford*, and told this Informant she picked up the above-named Piece of Paper near her own Door.

JOHN BARKER.

*Sworn at Oxford the 17th Day of
August, 1754. before us*

GEORGE HUDDESFORD, Vice-Chan.

DANIEL SHILFOX, Mayor.

NUMBER X.

The voluntary Information of John Sare, of the City of Oxford, Cordwainer, taken before us George Huddesford, D. D. Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford, and Daniel Shilfox, Esq; Mayor of the City of Oxford, this 17th Day of August, 1754.

THIS Informant upon his Oath saith, That upon *Saturday* the 20th Day of *July* last, being the *Saturday* next before the Assises, he was standing near the Stall of one *John Barker* in *Oxford* Market, and was talking with him, when *Mrs. Carnall*, who lives near *Carfax* in *Oxford*, came up to the said *Barker*, and put a rusty Piece of Paper into his Hand, and said to him, See what the Blues have done ! or, See what the Blues will do ! but which of those two Expressions this Informant cannot positively say ; but this Deponent saith he did not hear the said Paper read, neither doth he know the Contents thereof, and therefore cannot depose any further.

JOHN SARE.

Sworn at Oxford the 17th Day of August, 1754. before us

GEORGE HUDDESFORD, Vice-Chan.

DANIEL SHILFOX, Mayor.

NUMBER XL

The voluntary Information of Jane Sims, of Oxford, Widow, taken on Oath before us George Huddesford, D.D. Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford, and Daniel Shilfox, Esq; Mayor of the City of Oxford, the 17th Day of August, 1754.

THE Informant on her Oath saith, That she is a Laundress in Oxford, and washes Linnen for Mrs. *Carnall*, who lives near *Carfax* in Oxford aforesaid; and that her usual Custom is to fetch or send for the foul Linnen from the said Mrs. *Carnall*'s every *Sunday*, and to return the same clean every *Friday*; and that on the *Sunday* next before the last Assises for the County of Oxford this Informant received the said Mrs. *Carnall*'s foul Linnen from *Mary Faulkner*, her Maid-Servant, with a Bill of the said Linnen as usual; on the Back of which Bill was written some Verses, as this Informant was told by *Mary Karby* her own Maid-Servant, after she had brought the said Linnen to her own House, which said *Mary Karby* read the said Verses to this Informant, who cannot read herself; but this Informant, not understanding the same, did not at that Time give much heed to the said Verses; but on the *Friday* following, when this Informant carried the said Linnen, and the Bill belonging to it, back to the said Mrs. *Carnall*'s House, her said Servant *Mary Faulkner* received the

the said Linnen, and after having compared it with the said Bill, and left the said Bill on a Bed which was in the Room, she the said *Mary Faulkner* said to her said Mistress with some Expression of Joy, "Our Paper is come back again, I wondered what was become of it!" The said Mrs. *Carnall* thereupon said, where is it, to which this Informant replied, I have it, she this Informant having then thrown the said Bill into her Basket; and Mrs. *Carnall* thereupon said to this Informant, if you do not leave it you shall never wash any more for me; and this Informant not immediately delivering up the said Paper, the said *Mary Faulkner* snatched some Linnen belonging to other Persons out of this Informant's Basket, in order to compel this Informant to deliver up the said Bill, which this Informant accordingly did, upon the said *Mary Faulkner*'s delivering back the said Linnen to this Informant; and this Informant hath since heard from another Maid-Servant, who then lived with the said Mrs. *Carnall*, and whose Name this Informant believes is *Ann Smith*, that the Verses wrote on the Back of the said Linnen Bill, were a Copy or Part of the same Verses as were presented at the last Assises for the County of *Oxford*, as a treasonable Copy of Verses by the Grand-Jury there; and that the said *Mary Faulkner* copied or transcribed the said Verses on the Back of the said Linnen Bill from the

Original Copy of Verfes so presented by the said
Grand-Jury.

The Mark of

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JANE SIMS;

*Sworn at Oxford the 17th Day of
August, 1754. before us*

GEORGE HUDDESFORD, Vice-Chan.

DANIEL SHILFOX, Mayor.

NUMBER XII.

*The voluntary Information of Mary Kirby,
Spinster, Servant to Jane Sims of Oxford;
Laundress, taken an Oath before us George
Huddesford, D. D. Vice-Chancellor of the
University of Oxford, and Daniel Shilfox,
Esq; Mayor of the City of Oxford, the 17th
Day of August, 1754.*

THE Informant on her Oath saith, That
her Mistress *Jane Sims* washes Linnen for
Mrs. *Carnall*, who lives near *Earfax* in *Oxford*;
and that on the *Sunday Evening* next before the
last Assises for the County of *Oxford*, as this In-
formant was comparing the Linnen Bill with
the foul Linnen which came from the said Mrs.

Carnall,

Carnall for her Mistress who cannot read, she this Informant observing the said Linnen Bill to be larger than ordinary, looked on the Back of the said Bill, and found a written Copy of Verses thereon, which this Informant read over to herself twice the same Evening, and once afterwards on the *Friday* following to her Mistress, who, upon hearing the same, bid this Informant not mind their Nonsense, or to that Effect, and caught the said Paper out of this Informant's Hand; and this Informant saith, that some of the Lines which were written on the Back of the said Linnen Bill were, to the best of this Informant's Knowledge, in the following Words:

" Britains no longer gazing stand

" take Sword in Hand

" And meet your Monarch at his Landing
which said Lines do not, as this Informant believes, immediately follow one another in the said Paper, but are in different Parts thereof, with other Lines intervening between them, not remembered by this Informant.

MARY KARRY.

*Sworn at Oxford the 17th Day of
August, 1754. before us*

GEORGE HUDDSFORD, Vice-Chan.

DANIEL SHILFORD, Mayor.

NUMBER XIII.

The Information of Cornelius Norton, of Oxford, Gent. taken on Oath before us George Huddesford, D. D. Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford, and Daniel Shilfox, Esq; Mayor of the City of Oxford, the 22d Day of August, 1754.

THIS Informant on his Oath saith, That on the 23d of *July* last, he having then heard that a treasonable Copy of Verses was found and taken up by one Mrs. *Carnall* near her own Door at *Carfax* in the City of *Oxford*, this Informant went to see them, and the said Mrs. *Carnall* thereupon produced the same; and this Informant asking her where she had them, she told him, that she found or took them from the Top of some Rags lying by or near the Hampers of one Mrs. *West* a Cheese Woman; who sits under her Window, on Market Days, and that Mrs. *West* told her that the Rags were brought there by, or belonged to, one *Maria*, a Girl who used to look after Mrs. *West*'s Hampers, and to buy Rags; and this Informant saith, That the said Copy of Verses was wrote on White Paper, pasted upon old Brown Paper, pretty much worn, and seemed to this Informant to have been wrote some Years, and that some Words of the same were mis-spelt, and seemed to be wrote by an indifferent writer, resembling a Woman's Hand-writing; and saith, that

that when this Informant had read the said Verses, which contained many treasonable and seditious Expressions, exciting his Majesty's Subjects to rebel, this Informant ask'd Mrs. *Carnall* if she had shewn them to any Person, and in particular to any Magistrate, for that as the same were treasonable, she ought to lay them before a Magistrate, in order to detect the Author; whereupon Mrs. *Carnall* told this Informant, that she had shewn them to Mr. *Austin*, one of the City Magistrates, but that he was afraid or unwilling to act, the People of the City despising and abusing him, and looking on him as their Enemy, or to that Effect; and that Mr. *Austin* advised her, as the Assises were so nigh, to apply to this Informant, and to be directed by him, or by some Justice of the Peace, who shou'd come to the Assises, how to act; and this Informant saith, That to the best of his Remembrance and Belief, he kept the Verses only that Night and returned them to Mrs. *Carnall* the next Day, being the Commission Day of the Assises at *Oxford*, *Wednesday* the 24th Day of *July* last; and that the next Day, being *Thursday* the 25th, the Verses were again brought or sent to this Informant from Mrs. *Carnall*, with Orders to draw a Presentment for the Grand Jury; but this Informant being ill, having taken Physic or been Blooded, cou'd not himself attend the Grand Jury, and therefore this Informant's Son, who is an Attorney in *London*, and was then with this Informant, and has now left *Oxford*, drew the Form of a Presentment, and
went

went with Mrs. *Carnall* (as this Informant believes) to or before the Grand Jury; and this Informant saith, that Mrs. *Carnall* told him that *Maria* wou'd not inform her of whom she had the Rags, but she believed *Maria's* Aunt, one Mrs. *Carter*, might be able to get it out of her; whereupon this Informant desired Mrs. *Carter* might be sent to him, in Order to promote the Discovery; who accordingly came, but told this Informant she was apprehensive she cou'd do no good with *Maria* in that the Affair had been too much talk'd of, and made Public, and the Girl was grown shy and cautious, or to that Effect; and thereupon this Informant being told that the Girl also sold Cherries about the Streets, he order'd the said Mrs. *Carter* to send the said *Maria* to him with some, who brought him some accordingly; and this Informant examining her about the Verses, and where, and of whom she had the Rags, she declared she could not tell, for she often bought several small Parcels in a Day, and she appeared very shy and unwilling to answer any Questions. And this Informant further saith, that the first Time he was apprized of the said Verses was on the 22d or 23d of *July* last; and that he never was privy to, or gave any Orders or Consent for, inserting of any Advertisement in any of the Public News Papers relative to the said treasonable Copy of Verses, altho' this Informant's Name was made use of upon such Occasion, which this Informant believes was owing to his known

Zeal

Zeal and Loyalty to the present King and Government.

C. NORTON:

Sworn at Oxford the 22d Day of

August, 1754. before us

GEORGE HUDDSFORD, Vice-Chan.

DANIEL SHILFOX, Mayor.

NUMBER XIV.

The voluntary Information of Ann Smith, of Heddingdon in the County of Oxford, Spinster, taken on Oath before us George Huddsford, D. D. Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford, and Daniel Shilfox, Esq; Mayor of the City of Oxford, the 19th of August, 1754.

THIS Informant on her Oath saith, That she went to live with one Mrs. *Cornall* in Oxford in the Capacity of a Servant Maid about five Weeks before the last Assises, and continued in the said Service till the *Monday* after the Assises; and that sometime in the Assise Week she heard *Mary Faulkner*, her fellow Servant, say her Mistress had picked up a Treasonable Paper, and that she was to go before the Judge with

with it; and this Informant saith she never saw the said Paper, nor knows any thing further about the same, but saith that she came to *Oxford* on the *Saturday* after she left her said Service, and as she passed by the House of Mrs. *Carnall*, she (Mrs. *Carnall*) called to this Informant and asked her how she did, and desired her to walk in, which this Informant accordingly did; and then the said Mrs. *Carnall* said to this Informant, Did you see me pick up the Piece of Paper (meaning the treasonable Piece of Paper, as this Informant apprehends) to which this Informant replied, No; upon which the said Mrs. *Carnall* said, You must certainly see me pick it up; to which this Informant said, No indeed, Madam, I did not; and this Informant further said, that when the said Mrs. *Carnall* asked the above Questions upon this Informant's giving her the above Answers, she Mrs. *Carnall* turned very pale, and seemed in great Confusion. And this Informant further saith, that during the whole Time she lived with Mrs. *Carnall*, her Mistress, Mrs. *Carnall*, never said any thing to her about the said Paper, neither doth this Informant know any thing of the said Paper, save as above set forth.

ANN SMITH.

Sworn at Oxford the 19th Day of

August, 1754. before us

GEORGE HUDDSFORD, Vice-Chan.

DANIEL SHILFOX, Mayor,

NUMBER XV.

The voluntary Information of John Austin, of the City of Oxford, Mercer, taken on Oath before us George Huddesford, D.D. and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford, and Daniel Shilfox, Esq; Mayor of the City of Oxford, the 22d Day of August, 1754.

THE Informant on his Oath saith, That on the *Wednesday* in the last Sessions Week, sometime in the Forenoon of the same Day, as the Informant was going Home to his own House, he was called into Mr. *Carter's* Shop near *Carfax* in *Oxford*, but the Informant does not know by whom; that he the Informant went into the said Shop, and there was there Mr. *Carter*, Mrs. *Carter*, and Mrs. *Carnall*, and the Informant knows not whether any Body else was in the said Shop at that Time; that the said Mr. *Carter* said to the Informant, See here is a fine Thing, and put a Paper of Verses into this Informant's Hand, which said Paper was a thickish Kind of Paper and seemed to be old, and not to be very white, and the Writing seemed to this Informant not to be very fresh; the Informant looked on the said Paper, and began reading it, but the Informant's Eyes being bad, he could not read it through; but the Informant saith that the Hand writing seemed to the Informant to be fictitious; and this In-

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formant

formant returned the same to the said Mr. *Carter*, who read the said Verses to this Informant; that the Informant looked upon the said Verses to be very bad against his Majesty, and the said Mr. *Carter* told the Informant that Mrs. *Carnall* had picked them up that Morning among some Rags by her Door; whereupon Mrs. *Carnall* asked this Informant, what was proper to be done with it; upon which this Informant advised her either to consult Mr. *Norton* the Attorney, or bring the Paper to him this Informant, and he would consider what was proper to be done; to which Mr. *Carter* replied, he should have it presently; and this Informant went over to his own House, and soon after this Informant seeing Mr. *Carter* at his Door, which is nearly opposite to this Informant's House, he beckoned him over, and asked him for the said Verses, who told this Informant he had shewed them to one Captain *Loyde* who had taken them away with him, which Person so called Captain *Loyde* this Informant knows to be an Agent of Lord *Parker* and Sir *Edward Turner*, but is ignorant of the Place of his Abode, or of any other Particulars concerning him, but that soon after in the same Day this Informant gave the said Captain *Loyde* Cash for Bills to a considerable Amount, and then took an Opportunity to ask him for the said Paper, to which Captain *Loyde* answered he had it not about him, or made some evasive Answer, which this Informant cannot recollect; and this Informant saith he

he never saw the said Verses afterwards, nor knows any further Particulars concerning them, but hath heard that the same were presented by the Grand-Jury at the last Assises for the County of *Oxford*; and since the said Presentment, this Informant transcribed the said Verses from a Copy which one Mr. *Hanwell*, Under-Treasurer of Christ-Church *Oxford*, shewed to this Informant, and which Mr. *Hanwell* said he had from the Grand-Jury, with whom he had lately been; which Copy so taken by him this Informant he this Informant destroyed on *Monday* last; and this Informant saith he cannot depose any further concerning the Matters above-mentioned.

JOHN AUSTIN.

Sworn at Oxford the 22d Day of

August, 1754. before us

GEORGE HUDDSFORD, Vice-Chan.

DANIEL SHILFOX, Mayor.

NUMBER XVI.

The voluntary Information of Richard Hanwell, of Oxford, Gentleman, taken before us George Huddesford, D.D. Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford, and Daniel Shilfox, Esq; Mayor of the City of Oxford, this 22d Day of August, 1754.

THIS Informant upon his Oath saith, That on the last Day of the last Assises for the County of *Oxford*, as he believes, he was about Dinner Time with the Gentlemen of the Grand Jury at the *Bear Inn*, after a Presentment had by them been made of certain treasonable Verses found in the Market Place of the City of *Oxford*; and that in another Room of the said Inn, into which the Company retired at pleasure, there lay upon the Table a Paper containing Verses of a very treasonable, scandalous and seditious Nature, which this Informant understood to be a Copy of the said Verses so presented, it being expressed at the Bottom of the same that it was such Copy so presented by the Grand Jury. And this Informant saith, That he then and there transcribed the same, and that another Person was writing at the same Time, but whether it was another Copy or not, this Informant cannot determine. And this Informant saith, that sometime afterwards, he being in the Shop of Mr. *Austin* the Mercer, took out his Pocket Book

Book in which among other Papers the said Copy of Verses then was, and Mr. *Austin* took up the same and retired to another Part of the Shop to write out a Bill for this Informant, to the best of his Knowledge, but whether he took a Copy of the said Verses or not this Informant cannot positively determine, but is rather inclined to think he did, as he was at that time writing. And this Informant saith, that the said Copy so taken by him of the said Verses is now either lost or mislaid; and this Informant will not undertake to produce the same, because he knows not what is become of it.

RICHARD HANWELL.

Sworn at Oxford the 22d Day of

August, 1754. before us

GEORGE HUDDSEORD, Vice-Chan.

DANIEL SHILFOX, Mayor.

F I N I S.







